



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

KINNEY & LANGE, P.A.  
THE KINNEY & LANGE BUILDING  
312 SOUTH THIRD STREET  
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55415-1002

MAILED

MAY 10 2010

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,873,277  
Issue Date: March 29, 2005  
Application No. 10/665,672  
Filed: September 19, 2003  
Attorney Docket No: **E252.12-0003**

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition filed March 18, 2010 under 37 CFR 1.378(c)<sup>1</sup>, to accept the delayed payment of the maintenance fee for the above-identified patent and to change the entity status.

The petition under 37 CFR 1.378 (c) is **GRANTED**.

The patent issued on March 29, 2005. The first maintenance fee due could have been paid during the period from March 29, 2008 to September 29, 2008 or, with a surcharge during the period from September 30, 2008 to March 29, 2009. Accordingly, this patent expired on May 10, 2009 for failure to timely remit the first maintenance fee.

Accordingly, the maintenance fee in this case is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is hereby reinstated as of the mail date of this decision. Fees in the amount of \$930.00 for the first maintenance fee and \$1,640.00 for the surcharge have been charged to the credit card provided.

In response to the request under 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2) and notification of loss of entitlement to small entity status, status as a Small Entity has been removed.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned Petitions Attorney at (571) 272-3212.

*Patricia Faison-Ball*

Patricia Faison-Ball  
Senior Petitions Attorney  
Office of Petitions

<sup>1</sup>37 CFR 1.378 (c) provides that a petition to accept an unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee must be filed within twenty-four months of the six-month grace period provided in § 1.362(e) and must include:

- (1) The required maintenance fee set forth in § 1.20(e) through (g);
- (2) The surcharge set forth in § 1.20(l)(2); and
- (3) A statement that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee was unintentional.